

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A method of providing enhanced safety among a plurality of hunters hunting in a particular locale, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a wireless communication system covering said locale; and
(2) providing each hunter with an electronic device adapted to determine its location and orientation, transmit its location information through said wireless communication system, receive location information of said other of said devices in said locale, determine the location of the other of said devices in said locale relative to its own location and orientation, and indicate if an unsafe condition responsive to determination that exists, ~~said unsafe condition comprising~~ another of said devices ~~being~~ is in a certain direction relative to said orientation of said device.

2. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 22 wherein step (2) comprises providing each device with an electronic compass to determine said orientation of said device, said device adapted to combine said orientation information and said location information to determine the distance and direction of said other devices relative to said device.

3. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

(3) providing a mechanism for mounting said device to said hunter's firearm such that said compass indicates the direction in which said firearm is pointing.

4. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein step (1) comprises providing a peer-to-peer wireless transceiver in each said device.

5. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2 wherein step (1) comprises the steps of:

(1.1) providing a central processing device remote from said electronic devices;

(1.2) wirelessly receiving at said central processing device said location information transmitted by said devices in said locale;

(1.3) processing at said central processing device said location information of said devices to generate a report of the location of all of said devices in said locale; and

(1.4) wirelessly transmitting said report from said central processing device to said devices in said locale.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

(1.5) providing at least one communication base station comprising an antenna and a transceiver for transferring said location data and said report between said devices and said central processing device.

7. (Original): The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:
(1.6) utilizing a third party wireless communication system for transferring said location data and said report between said devices and said central processing device.

8. (Original): The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:
(4) providing a hunting ground within which said devices can operate.

9. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for providing enhanced safety among a plurality of hunters hunting in a particular locale, said apparatus comprising:

an electronic device adapted to determine its location and generate a location signal;

a compass for determining an orientation of said apparatus;

a wireless transmitter for transmitting said location signal;

a wireless receiver for receiving location information of said other of said apparatuses; and

a processing device adapted to determine the location of the other of said apparatuses relative to said apparatus and generate a warning ~~if an unsafe condition exists, said unsafe condition comprising~~ responsive to determination that another of said devices ~~being is~~ within a certain distance and in a certain direction relative to said orientation of said apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said processing device combines said orientation and said location information to determine the distance and direction of said other devices relative to said device.

11. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

a mechanism for mounting said device to a firearm such that said compass indicates the direction in which said firearm is pointing.

12. (Original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said electronic device adapted to determine location comprises a Global Positioning Satellite receiver.

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said wireless transmitter and said wireless receiver are adapted to communicate with others of said apparatus on a peer-to-peer basis.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said wireless transmitter and said wireless receiver are adapted to communicate with a base station.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a warning device for indicating said unsafe condition.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said warning device is an audio device for generating an audible signal.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said warning device is a display device for generating a visual signal.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said display device is an LCD display screen.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said display device comprises at least one light that is illuminated when an unsafe condition is detected.

20. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a signal output line for coupling to control a firing mechanism of a firearm and wherein said processing device further asserts a signal on said signal output line that disables said firing mechanism when said unsafe condition exists.

21. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said processing device causes said transmitter to transmit said location information

only if said apparatus has moved more than a predetermined distance since the last time the apparatus transmitted its location information.

22. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein step (2) comprises indicating said unsafe condition only if said other device also is within a certain distance of said device.